NIP-247 IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE In re Patent Application of RECEIVED S. KANNO et al APR 1 5 2003 Serial No. 09/936,426 TC 1700 Filed: September 13, 2001 PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR THE DECOMPOSITION For: OF FLUORINE COMPOUNDS INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS) UNDER § 1.97 AND § 1.98 Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 Sir: 1. This IDS should be considered: when filed within three months of the filing (a) date of the present application, or within three months of the filing date of the National Stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs last; when filed before the mailing date of either a Final Rejection under § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311, whichever occurs first and when 1(a) does not apply. For this purpose, there is included herein either a certification in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box), or a fee of \$180.00 (a check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed, or if not see section 5 below); when filed prior to the payment of the Issue Fee, when 1(a)-(b) do not apply, and when a certification is included in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box); then the Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) and request(s) consideration of this IDS, and provided herewith is a fee of \$180.00 (a check in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the petition fee, or if not see section 5 below). When 1(a)-(c) do not apply, then it is requested that this IDS be placed in the file. Listing of the information submitted is on the attached Form PTO-1449, which forms a part of this IDS. copy of each listed document is enclosed when needed (needed

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for U.S. and foreign patents, publication or portion thereof listed; no copy of a U.S. patent application is needed; a copy of a document is not needed when previously submitted or previously cited by the PTO in a parent application of the present application as set forth under 35 U.S.C. § 120).

- 4. The undersigned hereby states:
- (a) that each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, which communication was dated not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
- $\square$  (b) that no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.
- 5. If a fee or additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or additional fee that may be required and credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 50-1417. A duplicate of this sheet is attached.
- 6. If the PTO determines that part(s) of the required content is inadvertently omitted, then it is requested that the Applicant(s) be given additional time and specific identification of such omission(s) to enable full compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

Shrinath Malur

Registration No. 34,663 Attorney for Applicants

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR 1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370 Alexandria, Virginia 22314 (703) 684-1120 Date: April 11, 2003

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